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Message Text

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46
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06 OES-06 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 /078 W
---------- 049393
R 190900Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6397
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS LAGOS 9516

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, BEXP, NI
SUBJ: FREIGHT RATE INCREASE; AWAITING LAGOS BERTHS DROP

1. TWO LINER CONFERENCES, UNITED KINGDOM-WEST AFRICA LINE (UNKWAL) AND CONTINENT-WEST AFRICAN CONFERENCE (COWAC), HAVE ANNOUNCED FREIGHT RATE INCREASES ON NORTH AND SOUTHBOUND CARGO. UKWAL RATES WEST UP 18 PERCENT (NAIRA 7.20 PER FREIGHT TON) EFFECTIVE JULY 22 AND COWAC RATES WENT UP 10 PERCENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1. THESE INCREASES WERE THE RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE CONFERENCES AND A TENNATION NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE OF THE TWENTY WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES.

THE INCREASES REFLECT HIGHER OPERATING COSTS ALONG THE ENTRIES ROUTE (NEARLY 35 PERCENT HIGHER OPERATING COSTS ALONG THE ENTIRE ROUTE (NEARLY 35 PERCENT HIGHER THAN 1974). UKWAL AND COWAC TOGETHER CARRY ABOUT 85 PERCENT OF NIGERIA'S TRADE WITH WESTERN EUROPE INCLUDING THE UK. WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE HAS AVERAGED MORE THAN 65 PERCENT OF NIGERIA'S NON-OIL TRADE IN THE PAST THREE YEARS.A DELEGATION FROM THE AMERICAN-WEST AFRICA FREIGHT CONFERENCE (AWAFC) IS DUE IN LAGOS SEPTEMBER 10.
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2. NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY (NPA) FIGURE SHOW THAT THE NUMBER OF SHIPS AWAITING BERTHING AT LAGOS/APAPA ON AUG 13 DROPPED TO 130 INCLUDING 27 CEMENT SHIPS CARRYING 46, 754 TONS. FOUR SHIPS ARE WAITING TO BERTH AT THE AWAFC PRIORITY BERTH OF WHICH ONE IS THE FARRELL LINES SHIP "NEPTUNE". THE "NEPTUNE" ENTTERED NIGERIA WATERS IN MID-JULY AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO BERTH BEFORE AUG 30. NPA FIGURES SHOW THAT THE DAILY DISCHARG-ING RATE FOR ALL BERTHS IS ABOUT 11,00 TONS PER DAY FOR THE WEEK, AN IMPROVEMENT OVER PREVIOUS WEEKS.

3. THE BUSINESS TIMES REPORTS THAT THE FMG IS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING A DOCKYARD AUTHORITY INDEPENDENT OF THE NPA. IN THE MEANTIME, THE NPA HAS ORDERED TWO FLOATING DOCK SECTIONS WORTH DOLS.690.00 FROM SWAN HUNTER SHIPBUILDERS, LTD., OF WELLSEND (U.K.) TO BE COMPLETED IN JANUARY 19777. A FLOATING DOCK WITH A LIFTING CAPACITY OF 4.06 THOUSAND TONS WAS PURCHASED IN THE 1960S, BUT THIS DOCK HAS BEEN LITTLE USED TO DATE. IT IS HOPED THAT BY MODERNIZING NIGERIA'S DOCKYARD FACILITIES, THE COUNTRY CAN AVOID THE LOSS OF REVENUE OCCASIONED BY SHIPS LEAVING NIGERIA FOR REPAIR.
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Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Subject: FREIGHT RATE INCREASE; AWAITING LAGOS BERTHS DROP
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